

IN THE DRAWINGS

Please replace Fig. 1 with the appended drawings. Specifically, the numeral 1 is hereby underlined, the “remote control signal receiving unit” is hereby denoted by numeral 31, and numeral 20 is underlined as well. An additional sheet marked up in red showing the foregoing changes is appended.

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of the application are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks herewith, which place the application into condition for allowance. The present amendment is being made to facilitate prosecution of the application.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 1-76 are currently pending. Claims 1, 4, 21, 24, 41, 44, 51, 55, 58, 61 and 69 are independent. Claims 1-76 are hereby amended. No new matter has been introduced. Support for this amendment is provided throughout the Specification as originally filed. Changes to the claims are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §101, §102, §103, or §112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicants are entitled. Applicants also have amended parts of the Specification and Fig. 1.

II. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1, 4-7, 12-21, 32-41 and 51-76 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over pages 2-6 of the present patent application in view of European Patent No. 0682430 to Kawakami et al (hereafter merely “Kawakami”).

Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*:

“A method for using a plurality of transmission lines of a digital bus having a plurality of transmission lines operable in a first connection mode and a second connection mode, comprising the steps of:

....
pre-selecting the plurality of transmission lines of the digital bus into groups before any transmission lines among the plurality of transmission lines is formed, said groups including a first group that transmits data only in said first connection mode, and a second group that transmits data only in said second connection mode,

classifying said plurality of electronic apparatus connected to said digital bus into groups including a first group that receives data substantially through a transmission line of said first connection mode and a second group that receives data substantially through a transmission line of said second connection mode" (emphasis added)

As understood by Applicants, Kawakami relates to a data transmission method employing IEEE 1394 protocol. The data header of the transmitted isochronous packet is added with a node identifier identifying the transmitter node, so that the receiver node can immediately identify the transmitter node. Thereby the receiver node causes the transmission to be maintained by requesting the transmitter node to do so. A broadcast channel is a default channel used for isochronous packet transmission, unless a different channel number is otherwise specified. Thus, it is not necessary for the user to coordinate the channel number used by the transmitting and receiver nodes. It is also not necessary for the transmitter node to notify the receiver node, or the receiver node to notify the transmitter node, of the channel number used.

Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of Kawakami and pages 2-6 of the Background of the present patent application does not disclose or suggest pre-selecting the plurality of transmission lines of the digital bus into groups before any transmission lines among the plurality of transmission lines is formed, including a first group that transmits data only in the first connection mode, and a second group that transmits data only in the second connection mode, and classifying the electronic apparatus connected to the digital bus into groups including a first group that receives data substantially through a transmission line of the first connection

mode and a second group that receives data substantially through a transmission line of the second connection mode, all as recited in claim 1.

Therefore, Applicants submit that claim 1 is patentable.

For reasons similar to those described above with regard to independent claim 1, independent claims 4, 21, 24, 41, 44, 51, 55, 58 and 69 are also believed to be patentable.

Claim 61, recites, *inter alia*:

“An ... electronic apparatus comprises:

connection mode instruction means for accepting and holding an instruction input for selecting which connection mode out of said first connection mode and said second connection mode is used for forming a transmission line between electronic apparatuses for communicating data; and

connection control means for controlling the forming of a transmission line for transmitting data between said electronic apparatuses for communicating data in the selected connection mode corresponding to said instruction input held in said connection mode instruction means.” (emphasis added)

Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of Kawakami and pages 2-6 of the Background of the present patent application does not disclose or suggest connection mode instruction means for accepting and holding an instruction input for selecting which of two connection modes is used for forming a transmission line between electronic apparatuses for communicating data. Nor does this combination suggest connection control means for controlling the forming of a transmission line for transmitting data between the electronic apparatuses for communicating data in the selected connection mode corresponding to the instruction input held in the connection mode instruction means, all as recited in claim 61.

Therefore, Applicants submit that claim 61 is patentable.

Claims 2, 3, 8-11, 22-31 and 42-50 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over pages 2-6 of the present patent application in view of European Patent No. 0682430 to Kawakami further in view of European Patent No. 0766428 to Fujimori et al. (hereafter merely “Fujimori”).

Claim 44 recites, *inter alia*:

“An ... electronic apparatus connected to said digital bus comprises:

....
transmission line securing means for securing a transmission line of said first connection mode for each of said first receiving apparatus that receives data substantially through a transmission line of said first connection mode and for allocating the remaining transmission lines of said digital bus to said second connection mode;

wherein the connection mode of each transmission line is pre-selected before being formed.” (emphasis added)

As understood by Applicants, Fujimori relates to a plurality of nodes in a network system, in which the nodes are communicable with one another to exchange information and to transfer data, and a bus is provided for connection to the nodes and for configuration of logical paths to logically link one node to another node so as to secure transfer of the data. Each node has at least one port which is allocated for accessing the bus and which is classified into four types of an isochronous talker, an isochronous listener, a multicast talker and a multicast listener. Each node binds an isochronous channel number and a communication band to the isochronous talker when the same is allocated for isochronously transmitting the data labeled by the bound isochronous channel number to the bus through the bound communication band. Each node binds an isochronous channel number to the isochronous listener when the same is allocated so that the isochronous listener can exclusively receive data transmitted from another isochronous talker allocated to another node if the transmitted data is labeled by the same isochronous

channel number as that bound to the isochronous listener. Each node binds a multicast channel number to the multicast talker when the same is allocated for asynchronously broadcasting data labeled by the bound multicast channel number to the bus. Otherwise, each node binds a multicast channel number to the multicast listener when the same is allocated so that the multicast listener can exclusively receive data transmitted from another multicast talker allocated to another node if the transmitted data is labeled by the same multicast channel number as that bound to the multicast listener.

Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of Fujimori, Kawakami and pages 2-6 of the Background of the present patent application does not disclose or suggest transmission line securing means for securing a transmission line of the first connection mode for each of the first receiving apparatus that receives data substantially through a transmission line of the first connection mode and for allocating the remaining transmission lines of the digital bus to the second connection mode; wherein the connection mode of each transmission line is pre-selected before being formed, all as recited in claim 44.

Therefore, Applicants submit that claim 44 is patentable.

III. DEPENDENT CLAIMS

The other claims are dependent from one of the independent claims discussed above, and are therefore believed patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Claims 1-76 are in condition for allowance. In the event the Examiner disagrees with any of statements appearing above with respect to the disclosure in the cited reference, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner specifically indicate those portions of the reference providing the basis for a contrary view.

Please charge any additional fees that may be needed, and credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are patentable and Applicants respectfully request early passage to issue of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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FIG. 1

